

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /074 W

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R 051737Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1644

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

COMSIXTHFLT GAETA IT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 696

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, NATO, PO

SUBJ: NATO EXERCISE "LOCKED GATE". PCP WARNS AGAINST
DEMONSTRATIONS

REFS: (A) LISBON 626 (C) LISBON 649

(B) LISBON 638

1. COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) CENTRAL COMMITTEE ISSUED COMMUNIQUE

FEB. 4 WARNING LISBON POPULATION AGAINST PARTICIPATING IN

"PROVOCATIVE" DEMONSTRATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST NATO EXERCISE

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"LOCKED GATE" (REFS). COMMUNIQUE'S CHIEF POINTS ARE:

A. PCP FINDS NAVAL MANEUVERS "ENTIRELY INOPPORTUNE" AND, GIVEN PRESENT INTERNAL PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SITUATION, MANEUVERS "OBJECTIVELY" APPEAR TO BE ATTEMPT TO BRING PRESSURE ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS;

B. HOWEVER, SO LONG AS PORTUGAL REMAINS IN NATO, MANEUVERS OF THIS SORT (INVOLVING PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION) ARE INEVIT--
ABLE;

C. GIVEN COMPLEX NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, PCP CONSIDERS A "PRECIPITATE AND ADVENTURIST" POLICY BY YOUNG PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY VIS-A-VIS NATO "PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS." ANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING UNARMED SAILORS VISITING LISBON (ON SHORE LEAVE) COULD TAKE ON PROVOCATIVE CHARACTER WHICH WOULD BE EXPLOITED BY REACTIONARY FORCES;

D. PCP THEREFORE ASKS LISBON POPULATION NOT TO SUPPORT ANTI-NATO DEMONSTRATIONS CALLED ON BASIS "VARIOUS PRETEXTS"; INSTEAD, POPULATION INVITED NOT TO ANTAGONIZE VISITING SAILORS BUT TO EXPLAIN TO THEM ACTUAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL.

2. ONLY FIRMLY SET DEMONSTRATION WE CURRENTLY AWARE OF IS MRPP RALLY TAKING PLACE EVENING FEB. 5 IN DOWNTOWN LISBON (REF. B), ONE OF WHOSE THEMES DIRECTED AGAINST NATO EXERCISE. DAO ADVISED BY PORTUGUESE NAVAL OFFICIALS THAT OTHER FAR LEFT GROUPS ARE CALLING RALLY ON FEB. 7.

3. LISBON MORNING PRESS COVERAGE (DIARIO DE NOTICIAS) OF "LOCKED GATE" INCLUDED LONG, FACTUAL ARTICLE BASED ON GUIDED TOUR OF USS SARATOGA AND OTHER SHIPS BY DIARIO REPORTER. ARTICLE CONVEYED IMPRESSION OF EFFICIENT, POWERFUL NAVAL FORCE IN FACTUAL PRESENTATION, ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL DIGS ABOUT AMERICAN "IMPERIALISM."

4. COMMENT: PCP'S POSITION THIS CASE IS EXAMPLE OF "RESPONSIBLE" POLICY IT IS FOLLOWING, WHICH NORMALLY TRANSLATES INTO FIRM DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR POLICY WHICH ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) ADOPTS. ANNOUNCEMENT COULD BE A COVER TO EXONERATE PCP IF INCIDENTS DO OCCUR.
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